

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 11-13 are pending with Claim 11 being the sole independent claim. Claim 13 has been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objection

Claim 13 was objected to because of a minor informality in line 1 and because of an alleged inconsistency with Claim 11. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Claim 13 has been amended to address the points raised by the Examiner. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent publication to Tariki (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0008766). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent publication to Tariki (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0008766) in view of the patent to Corum (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,287).

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 11 relates to an imaging apparatus comprising a photoelectric conversion area, a controller, and an image processor. The photoelectric conversion area includes a plurality of photoelectric converters. The controller is configured to control a first mode for continuously reading out, from the photoelectric conversion area, a plurality of image data acquired by a plurality of image-taking operations performed at a plurality of charge accumulation times, respectively, and a second mode for continuously reading out, from the photoelectric conversion area, a plurality of correction data, acquired at different times than the plurality of charge accumulation times, having the same duration as the plurality of charge accumulation times, respectively, in a state where the photoelectric conversion area is shielded by a shutter. The image processor is for correcting the plurality of image data by using the plurality of correction data.

In contrast, the citation to Tariki is not understood to disclose or suggest a controller configured to configured to control a first mode for continuously reading out, from the photoelectric conversion area, a plurality of image data acquired by a plurality of image-taking operations performed at a plurality of charge accumulation times, respectively, and a second mode for continuously reading out, from the photoelectric conversion area, a plurality of correction data, acquired at different times than the plurality of charge accumulation times, having the same duration as the plurality of charge accumulation times, respectively, in a state where the photoelectric conversion area is shielded by a shutter, or an image processor for correcting the plurality of image data by using the plurality of correction data, as recited by Claim 11. Rather, Tariki is understood to merely disclose the updating of correction data stored in a memory and the correction of

an image signal by using newest correction data most recently stored. For this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 11 is not anticipated by Tariki. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 11 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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